

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 13 as noted in the following listing of the claims. This listing replaces and supersedes all prior claim listings:

1. (Previously Presented) An imaging apparatus comprising:

an imaging device for reading a signal captured by an image pickup device to generate an image signal based on the image captured by said image pickup device;

a signal processor for generating image data of a predetermined frame rate based on said generated image signal;

a controller for controlling said imaging device or said signal processor to set a variable frame rate of said image data to a set frame rate, and for generating associated information for indicating at least said set frame rate; and

a transmitter for combining said associated information with said image data to transmit combined data.

2. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller sets the variable frame rate of said image data by altering a reading frequency at which the captured signal is read from said image pickup device.

3. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller sets the variable frame rate of said image data by controlling said signal processor to perform frame-skipping.

4. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller sets the variable frame rate of said image data by altering a reading frequency at which the captured signal is read from said image pickup device and by controlling said signal processor to add said image data on a frame basis.

5. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller adds a sub-frame number to each of the frames of said set frame rate included within one frame period of a reference frame rate and includes said sub-frame number in said associated information.

6. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said signal processor samples an analog audio signal at a sampling frequency based on said set frame rate to generate audio data;

and

wherein said transmitter combines said associated information with said image data and said audio data.

7. (Previously Presented) The imaging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a signal recording apparatus for receiving said combined associated information and said image data to record the combined associated information and image data on a recording medium.

8. (Previously Presented) An imaging method comprising the steps of:

generating image data at a predetermined frame rate based on a signal read from an image pickup device;

setting a variable frame rate of said image data to a set frame rate;

generating associated information including frame rate information indicating said set frame rate of said image data; and

combining said associated information with said image data to transmit the combined data.

9. (Previously Presented) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein the variable frame rate of said image data is set by altering a reading frequency at which the signal is read from said image pickup device.

10. (Previously Presented) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein the variable frame rate of said image data is set by frame-skipping.

11. (Previously Presented) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein the variable frame rate of said image data is set by altering a reading frequency at which the signal is read from said image pickup device and said image data is added on a frame basis.

12. (Previously Presented) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein said associated information includes a sub-frame number allocated to each of the frames of said image data at said set frame rate that are included within one frame period of a reference frame rate.

13. (Currently Amended) The imaging method according to claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

sampling an analog audio signal at a sampling frequency based on said set frame rate to generate audio data; and

~~controlling said sampling frequency of said analog audio signal based on said frame rate, controlling said sampling frequency of said analog audio signal based on said set frame rate,~~

wherein said associated information is combined with said image data and said audio data.

14. (Previously Presented) The imaging method according to claim 8, wherein said combined associated information and image data is transmitted to signal recording apparatus for recording on a recording medium.